



BULLETIN : 15

from **DURBAR**

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DMSC on 'dharna' for an Universal Pension Scheme

A 5 day dharna (from May 7-11, 2012) was organized by the Pension Parishad at Jantar Mantar, Delhi. The dharna focused on the problems of aging workers belonging to unorganized labor sector who would be able to live out their lives with dignity if the government accepts the demand for universal pension. More than 3000 workers including farmers, domestic workers, disabled persons, sex workers and trans-genders from 22 states of the country participated during the 5 days dharna to press Union Government and Parliament to enact a bill or policy in support of universal old age pension.

Ten participants from DMSC attended the Dharna. Ms. Bharati Dey, the Secretary of Durbar in her speech said that for the aged sex workers the government should provide a monthly pension of Rs. 2000.

The dharna attracted a large number of parliamentarians from the Congress, TMC, NCP, Samajwadi Party, RJD, LJP to BJP, BJD, CPM, CPI. Besides them, Union Minister for Rural Development Jairam Ramesh and former Union Minister for Rural Development Raghuvansh Prasad addressed the gathering at Jantar Mantar voicing support for the cause.

The Minister assured that the government would positively move forward while consulting different parties and State governments to make old-age pension a reality.

Durbar organized a Film Festival for the 2nd time

To commemorate 20 years of completion of Sonagachi and Kalighat project DMSC organized three day long Film Festival in collaboration with Nandan from 7th to 9th June 2012. The festival was started with some intent to generate interest regarding the rights and empowerment of the women through projecting “exceptional women individuality” of reel life.

The festival was inaugurated by Ms. Paramita Chakraborty Jt. Director Women’s Studies Jadavpur University, Mr. Sanjay Mukhopadhyaya HOD Film Studies Jadavpur University, Ms. Ananya Chatterjee Film maker and Ms Bharati Dey Secretary DMSC by lit up “pradeep” (light). Followed by the inauguration programme the panel discussion was started with the Speech of Ms. Bharati Dey. The subject of the discussion of this panel was “Chalachitre Onnyo Naari”(other women in reel life).

“In our films women have never seen in their actual image, either they are depicted as good or bad.” Ms Ananya Mukherjee has said in her speech to explain Onnyo Naari in films. On the contrary Mr. Debjit Bandopadhyay has claim that there are no such things as “Onnyo Naari”(other women). “You are the woman who makes an importance in everyone’s lives, there is no such place for any other women” he commented while addressing the women from the sex workers community.

The celebration started by showcasing “Paramitar ekdin” followed by” Dwitya Paksha” and ended with “Anshumaner Chobi”.

Durbar collaborates with UCLA to carry out a study to increase ART adherence

Regular ART in appropriate doses can retard the progression of AIDS and death among people living with HIV/AIDS. It also improves quality of life among HIV positive. It has been observed that incorrect or inconsistent adherence to ART comprises the effectiveness of medications in achieving viral suppression. It also help development of resistance against medici

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee and UCLA in a joint collaborative Research Project entitled ‘**ART Adherence Behavior and Practices among HIV Positives in Kolkata, India-a pilot project**’ funded by ICMR and NIH has started the initial work. This research is targeted to improve ART Adherence among HIV Positives by using SMS and IVR to influence ‘safer behaviour’ reduce mental stress and to improve adherence to ART.